



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
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May 8, 2002

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Joe Finkbonner, WSBOH Health Disparities Committee Chair  
Vickie Ybarra, WSBOH Health Disparities Committee Member  
Margaret Pageler, WSBOH Health Disparities Committee Member

**RE:** Follow up on Efforts to Improve Health Workforce Diversity

**Background and Summary:**

In May 2001 the Washington State Board of Health adopted its Final Report on Health Disparities. The report documents the severity of health disparities in Washington. It also demonstrates that people of color are underrepresented in our state's health care workforce and underserved by its health care system. The report identifies multiple opportunities to build a more diverse health care system, including programs that recruit and retain students of color in the health career pipeline.

In July 2001 the Board requested that the Department of Health (DOH), through the professional licensing boards, explore ways to expand the roles of qualified minorities who already have some health care training (see attached letter to Secretary Selecky).

Ron Weaver, DOH Assistant Secretary, Health Systems Quality Assurance (HSQA), will report to the Board on the work that he has done in HSQA in response to the Board's request.

Terry Tatko (Project HOPE), Hakeem Shakoor and Najja Bullock (Project HOPP), and Maria Benavides and Lisa Campbell-John (ConneX), will update the Board on their programs' efforts to recruit students of color into the health career pipeline, and help keep them there.

**Recommended Board Action:**

No action recommended.

Attachment